



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
San Diego Public Library

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**SAN DIEGO PUBLIC LIBRARY TO HOST INTERNATIONAL RESCUE
COMMITTEE'S EXHIBIT "30 YEARS OF REFUGE" FOR THE MONTHS OF APRIL
AND MAY 2007**

San Diego, CA...The San Diego Public Library and the International Rescue Committee will host the exhibit "30 Years of Refuge" for the months of April and May 2007. Created by the International Rescue Committee to commemorate 30 years of service to refugees in San Diego, this exhibit tells the individual stories of 14 refugees who now live locally. The exhibit will remain on display at the Central Library from April 1 through May 31. This exhibit is FREE to the public.

Thirty years of Refuge highlights the refugee experience from Vietnam and Cambodia to Iran to Somalia and Sudan, among others. These refugees have shaped many San Diego neighborhoods, and their stories abound with tales of trauma, suffering, heroism and finally, hope after receiving the opportunity to start new lives in the United States

Immigration policy is once again at the center of a national debate as lawmakers in Washington grapple with competing visions of comprehensive immigration reform. Much has been written about illegal immigration into the U.S. and San Diego, with its proximity to the border, has featured prominently in this issue. What has not been so well-covered is legal immigration and in particular refugee admissions to the United States. San Diego features prominently on this front as well. Some 100,000 refugees live in San Diego having fled war and oppression in their home country. Over the past 30 years, the International Rescue Committee's San Diego office has resettled over 20,000 of these refugees.

This project is part of the "Changing Face of San Diego" and is supported in part by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act, administered in California by the State Librarian.

For more information, call the Central Library at 619-236-5800 or visit the Library on the City's Web site at www.sandiegolibrary.org.

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